

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 27-29 are new and in the application. Claims 1-26 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 10, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Malin et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,084,007*. Claims 8, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Malin et al.* and *Blum U.S. Patent No. 6,955,873*. Claims 13, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Malin et al.* and *Ehrenpreis et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,439,452*. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Malin et al.* Claims 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Malin et al.* and *Ehrenpreis et al.* and further in view of *Josefson et al.* Claims 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Malin et al.* and *Capel U.S. Patent No. 4,646,744*.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-26 and has added new claims 27-29. New claim 27 corresponds to original claims 6, 17 and 19. New claim 28 depends from claim 27 and includes the elements of

original claims 18 and 20. New claim 29 includes the elements from original claims 6, 17 and 21.

The subject matter of the claimed invention comprises punctual stimulation by means of needle electrodes stuck into the skin, the electrodes being supplied with electrical current, and administering an intravenous infusion of a substance that inhibits the enzymatic decomposition of endogenous opioid neuropeptides.

Claims 27-29 are directed to methods that comprise two different treatment procedures within each method. One of these procedures comprises one or more treatments with intravenous infusion and punctual stimulation by way of needle electrodes stuck into sensitive points of both ears. The other procedure consists of punctual stimulation on one ear without infusion. In claim 27, the punctual stimulation of both ears with infusion takes place before the punctual stimulation of one ear without infusion, and in claim 29, the punctual stimulation of one ear without infusion takes place first.

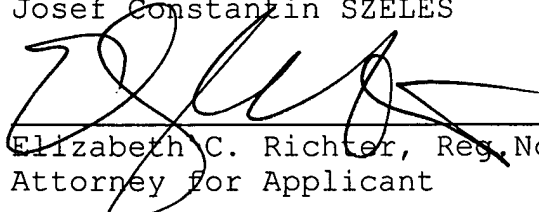
Neither *Malin* nor *Ehrenpreis* teach punctual stimulation in one ear followed by or prior to punctual stimulation in both ears. Regarding *Josefson*, the last paragraph of the second

column on page 1150 mentions that for an acupuncture treatment, two points situated in the ear have been chosen for inserting needles, and that the insertion was made unilaterally or bilaterally and that the needles were inserted in the ear of patients before an infusion of cyclophosphorate was started. However, there is no hint in *Josefson* of two different acupuncture procedures carried out consecutively, and there is no hint to combine an acupuncture procedure with bilaterally inserted needles without infusion. There is also no suggestion to supply electric current to the needles. Thus, the disclosure of *Josefson* does not give any hint to provide two different treatment procedures such as claimed in claims 27-30 of the present application. Providing two different procedures in succession is not taught or suggested by any of the cited references, either alone or in combination.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 27-29 are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination. Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA, on January 27, 2010.

  
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